

08-15-06

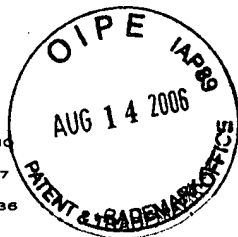
IFW

ESTABLISHED 1864

EDWARD D. SWEENEY 1864-1910
WILLIAM JACKSON 1864-1883
CHARLES L. WALKER 1878-1927
JOHN J. INGRAM 1910-1917
WILLIAM J. SWEENEY 1899-1936
EDW. L. EAGLE 1927-1975

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August 14, 2006

Mr. James M. Hewitt
Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of Robert Frink
Application No. 10/790,290
Vehicle Exhaust System Hose and Coupling Assembly

Dear Mr. Hewitt:

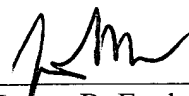
Enclosed please find my response to your office action of May 15, 2006.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.
I remain,

Very truly yours

EAGLE & EAGLE

By


James B. Eagle
#35,496

JBE/tm
Enclosures



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

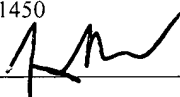
In re Application of)
Robert Frink)
)
Application No. 10/790,290) Examiner: James M. Hewitt
)
Filed: March 1, 2004) Art Unit: 3679
)
For: Vehicle Exhaust System Hose)
and Coupling Assembly)

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EI999762288US
Date of Deposit: August 14, 2006

I hereby certify that these papers and/or fees are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR. 1:10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



REPLY

Dear Mr. Hewitt

Please let this serve as my response to your office action dated May 15, 2006. I have amended the information disclosure statement and changed the abstract. I have also addressed the claim objections. I have also added the antecedent basis (i.e. the inlet and outlet) to the Description of the Preferred Embodiment and Figure 4.

With regard to your claim rejections, I have included two narrower claims which should pass muster. I would also like to make clear the distinctions between our invention and the prior art (i.e. Nordin, Zima and Mommsen).

Nordin does not incorporate a tether rather Nordin incorporates a leaf spring connecting an upper pipe coupling (which incorporates Nordin's electromagnet) and the tailpipe nozzle. Said leaf spring provides tension for the nozzle so it can be held in place to the tail pipe when the magnet is engaged.

Our tether is a static cable which bears all of the tension force as the vehicle departs. This is important because hoses are not typically made to withstand tension forces. Static cables (such as our tether) are made to withstand tension forces. Further, our tether is permanently out of the way and will never get tangled.

Another distinction is the shape of our snap ring. Unlike Mommsen, the instant snap ring is circular which allows for a ready connection without having to align, or orientate, the male and female members. This circular ring allows the nozzle to rotate around the adapter thereby preventing any twisting moments from developing.

The present invention does not "spring" back or "snap" back when a disconnect occurs because there is no twisting moment – as hereinabove mentioned – nor are there any springs or "spring take up reels" like Zima teaches. The instant invention utilizes a non-elastic cable thereby minimizing unwanted sharp movements of the nozzle as the vehicle exits.

Other favorable aspects of the present invention include: the ease at which the snap ring can be replaced; and the fact that ambient air is introduced with the hot gases thereby cooling the hot gases and also causing a venturi effect.


In response to your office action, I am enclosing the following:

Amended Description of Preferred Embodiment
Amended Claims 8-14 (please delete Claims 1-7)
Additional Claims 15 and 16
Amended Fig. 4 (in triplicate)
Amended Abstract
Amended Information Disclosure Statement

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I remain,

Very truly yours

EAGLE & EAGLE

By 
James B. Eagle
#35,496

JBE/tm
Enclosures